

Healthy RI National Reform Implementation Task Force

Workforce Development Work Group

Notes from 06/24/10 Meeting

The Work Group discussed the importance of establishing a baseline for the health care workforce in Rhode Island::

- Find out where RI stands right now: health centers, clinics, categories of health care professionals, health facts:
 - Population of uninsured in RI
 - Breakdown of workforce by position
 - Access points for care, current

The Work Group also discussed the need to establish a future state analysis – what will the RI health care system needs be 5 and 10 years out – to determine where to focus in terms of workforce development priorities. Relevant factors:

- Nurse retention rate has gone down in RI. Is it because of lack of available jobs or the rise in out-of-state students who return home to begin their careers?
- There may be regulatory issues that prevent professionals from entering the workforce, especially for foreign-born, foreign-educated applicants.
- Which organizations in RI should take the lead in applying for which grants?

Priorities: increasing access to workforce, supporting existing workforce to promote retention

Overlap: Prevention→ More workforce = greater access to health care

Challenges: Rapid turnaround time on Task Force work and need for more detailed information on the grant opportunities – this information will only become available as details are released.